

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 04763 211653Z
ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 STRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7813

UNCLAS BERLIN 04763

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY FOR FAS ADMINISTRATOR
HUGHES AND NOVOTNY, G&F, FCA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, GE
SUBJ: US-GDR GRAIN CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 181033

1. IN ACCORD WITH PREFERENCE EXPRESSED BY MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN TRADE IN A PRIOR TELEPHONE CONSULTATION, AGATT
MET WITH BERGEMANN OF NAHRUNG MORNING JULY 21 TO PRESENT
PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN REFTEL. IN REPLY BERGEMANN
CONVEYED GENERAL IMPRESSION THAT OCTOBER 24 WILL BE
ACCEPTABLE DATE FOR CONSULTATIONS. HE CAUTIONED,
HOWEVER, THAT FORMAL CONFIRMATION MUST FIRST BE
FORTHCOMING FROM NAHRUNG DIRECTOR GENERAL WOLF, AND
HE ASKED THAT PROPOSAL BE SUBMITTED TO WOLF BY LETTER,
WHICH WE ARE PREPARING. WILL REPORT REPLY SOONEST.

2. AGATT TOLD BERGEMANN THAT HE WAS PLEASED WITH
DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN GDR AND U.S. IN
AGRICULTURAL AREA--REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO GOOD
RECEPTION ACCORDED DR. HARRISON AND AGRICULTURAL
PLANNING AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT GROUP AND AMBASSADOR
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BOLEN DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO AGRA AND TO COLLECTIVE
FARMS. HE ADDED THAT HE HOPED NAHRUNG FOUND IT USEFUL
TO RECEIVE U.S. CROP DATA WHICH EMBASSY HAS BEEN
PROVIDING. HE ASKED BERGEMANN WHETHER HE COULD PROVIDE
SOME SIMILAR INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GDR
AND SPECIFICALLY ON NAHRUNG'S ESTIMATES OF THE CURRENT
GRAIN CROP. BERGEMANN REPLIED BY SPEAKING AT LENGTH ON

AGRA FAIR, ON GDR EFFORTS TO INTENSIFY GRAIN PRODUCTION, ON THE IMPORTANCE OF STRAW FEEDING AND ON SEVERAL OTHER SUBJECTS, BUT AVOIDED DIRECT REPLY.

3. BERGEMANN SAID IT WAS OBJECTIVE OF GDR TO INCREASE EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES IN ORDER TO BALANCE LARGE AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS. HE MENTIONED THAT HE HAD JUST HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF A MAJOR GRAIN COMPANY AND HAD URGED HIM TO PURCHASE GOODS DIRECTLY FROM GDR TO HELP BALANCE THE GDR'S PURCHASES. AGATT REPLIED THAT UNITED STATES SEEKS THE EXPANSION OF TRADE WITH GDR BUT THAT UNITED STATES IS STRONG SUPPORTER OF MULTILATERALISM IN WORLD TRADE. BERGEMANN ALSO RAISED OLD ISSUE OF SPROUTING WHEAT PURCHASES, AND AGATT REITERATED ADVISABILITY OF MAKING ANY COMPLAINTS IMMEDIATELY KNOWN TO EMBASSY TO INSURE TIMELY REPORTING OF COMPLAINT TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. BOLEN

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